

VOYAGES DU SIEUR DE CHAMPLAIN 393

saumon dessus & saumon dessous ces arbres, ainsi nous
parvenions à vu les, ayant à droite de long, & à d. de large,²
l'eau abondant en poisson, mais les peuples des environs
y font leur pêcheerie. Près de ce lac y a une habitation de
sauvages qui cultivent la terre, & recueillent du Maïs : le
chef se nomme Nihachia, lequel nous vint voir avec sa troupe,
curieux de comment nous avions peu passer les lacs &
mauvais chemins qu'il y avoit pour parvenir à eux. Ils
après nous avoir présenté du poisson selon leur mode, il com-
mença à haranguer ses compagnons, leur disant, Qu'il falloit
que fusiez tombés des cieux, ne sachant comment nous
avions peu passer, & qu'éux demeurés en pais avoient beau-
coup de peine à traverser ces mauvais passages, leur faisant
entendre que la venue à bout de tout ce que nous avoient

trouvés.³ Thus we reached a lake, six leagues long and two
wide; so abundant in fish that the surrounding tribes do
their fishing here. Near this lake is a settlement of Indians
who till the land and reap the maize. Their chief, whose
name is Nihachia, came with his men to see us, and was
astonished that we had been able to pass the rapids and had
trails on the way to their country. And having, according
to their custom, offered us tobacco, he began to address his
companions, saying that we must have fallen from the clouds;
for he did not know how we had been able to get through,
when those who live in the country had great difficulty in
coming along such difficult trails, giving them to understand
that I carried out all I set my mind upon. In short, that he

² It was probably while getting through these falls from that Champlain lost his astrakhan, which was found at this spot in August 1861 by E. G. Lee, then a boy of fourteen. A photograph of the spot and Mr. Lee's account of how he discovered the astrakhan are given in Charles Macnamara's paper, cited on p. 271, note 1. The distance from Champlain lake to Montreal lake is three miles, not three leagues. See Plate 211, p. 271. The photograph for this was kindly supplied by the present owner, Mr. E. V. Holman of Monticello, N.Y.

³ Montreal lake, which is only ten miles long. Further on Champlain says it was "nearly seven leagues long."

Champlain, Samuel de

Fourth Voyage of the Sr. de Champlain
Captain in Ordinary to the King in the Navy,
and Lieutenant of My Lord the Prince of
Conde in New France, made in the Year 1613.

In: The Works of Samuel de Champlain, v. II,
pp. 237-311 (Toronto, 1925)